

Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

SAM-01 OPIC-06 AF-06 /092 W
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R 221901Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1254

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

UNCLAS BERLIN 6226

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, P

SUBJECT: MILDER PRESS TREATMENT OF US PORTUGUESE ROLE

1. IN THE WAKE OF STRONG ANTI-US CRITICISM COINCIDING WITH HONCERK'S TELEGRAM TO CUNHAL ON AUGUST 14, GDR MEDIA HAVE STRUCK A MILDER TONE ON PORTUGAL DURING THE PAST WEEK. ALTHOUGH NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND) HAS CONTINUED TO RUN CRISIS REPORTS FROM ITS CORRESPONDENT IN LISBON, LENGTHY EXCERPTS FROM OTHER EAST BLOC PAPERS, AND FREQUENT REPORTS ON SOLIDARITY DEMONSTRATIONS BY VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE GDR, EDITORIAL COMMENTARY HAS CEASED AND OFFICIAL REACTION TO US PRONOUNCEMENTS ON PORTUGAL, INCLUDING THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH IN BIRMINGHAM, HAS BEEN NON-EXISTENT.

2. NOW ND HAS STRUCK AN ALMOST FRIENDLY TONE IN REPORTING ON THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH IN MINNEAPOLIS AUGUST 21 BY LEADING WITH HIS STATEMENT THAT DETENTE DEPENDS ON HEALTHY AND SECURE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND USSR AND RESERVING HIS COMMENTS ON PORTUGAL FOR THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE ARTICLE. ND REPORTED ONLY THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD CHARACTERIZED THE PORTUGUESSE SITUATION AS AN IDEOLOGICAL CONFRONTATION THAT MUST BE RESOLVED

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IN AN ATMOSPHERE FREE FROM OUTSIDE PRESSURE.GROVE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DETENTE, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERLIN06226
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750292-0177
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750824/aaaaausc.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 FEB 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <17 FEB 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILDER PRESS TREATMENT OF US PORTUGUESE ROLE
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO, US, GC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006